

# GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT SERVICES DIGEST

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This Digest is used to transmit information pertaining to the four program components of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program: Curriculum; Individual Planning; Responsive Services; and System Support to professional school counselors, placement personnel, career and technical school counselors and administrators at all levels throughout the state.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### THE DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION ENTRY-LEVEL COMPETENCIES HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO JANUARY 1, 2008. PLEASE LET SUBJECT AREA TEACHERS KNOW.

Senate Bill 389 was passed last spring by the Missouri Legislators and mandated that in order to receive increases in state appropriations, all approved public two- and four-year institutions shall work with the commissioner of higher education to establish agreed upon competencies for all entry-level collegiate courses in several core content areas. **The bill further indicates that DESE will align such competencies with their assessments.**

The entry-level competencies are up for **public comment**. The feedback has been minimal and the deadline for public comment is over **January 1, 2008**. Please take the time to review the competencies that relate to your area of expertise and provide comments that might best guide the workgroups in creating a document that best serves the students of Missouri. Please see the letter from Stan Johnson, Assistant Commissioner of the Division of School Improvement at [http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/higher\\_ed\\_web\\_letter%20\(2\).pdf](http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/higher_ed_web_letter%20(2).pdf). A link to the Department of Higher Education is provided in the letter. You may also access the feedback form directly at [http://dhe.mo.gov/cai\\_feedback.shtml](http://dhe.mo.gov/cai_feedback.shtml)

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

**(From time to time, resources that are brought to our attention through ASCA listservs or other means that could be used as part of a guidance program will be listed here. The readers are encouraged to investigate the resources and decide whether or not they are appropriate for their programs. Listing of these resources does not constitute endorsement by either our section or DESE.)**

### {CURRICULUM}-Nothing this issue

### {INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}

#### RESOURCE FOR PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Mapping Your Future is a national collaborative, public-service organization of the financial aid industry - bringing together the expertise of the industry to provide free career, college, financial aid, and financial literacy information and services for students, families, and schools via the web.

Mapping Your Future sends a newsletter each month, with additional issues occasionally to let subscribers know about important issues. The newsletter is a project of the Mapping Your Future early awareness team.

The purpose of the newsletter is to provide interested parties with free college, career, financial aid, and financial literacy information, tips, and ideas for their work with middle and high school students and families. Subscribers are welcome to share articles with their students, families, and colleagues. Encourage them to get more information by visiting Mapping Your Future at [mappingyourfuture.org](http://mappingyourfuture.org).

You can subscribe to the Early Awareness E-News newsletter by going to [mappingyourfuture.org/services/awarenessnews.htm](http://mappingyourfuture.org/services/awarenessnews.htm).

#### HELP AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS CONSIDERING GOING TO COLLEGE.

Help is available for students considering a college education and wondering how they will pay for it.

The first step in the college financial aid process is to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Many of the students may need help completing the FAFSA.

On one afternoon each year, College Goal Sunday stages help sessions at different sites across the state of Missouri. Each session features financial aid professionals and hands-on help with the FAFSA form. College Goal Sunday is scheduled for **Sunday, February 10, 2008; 2 - 4 p.m.**

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Title IX Coordinator, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480; telephone number 573-751-4212.

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This program is free. It's a service sponsored by the Lumina Foundation, the Missouri Department of Higher Education and MOHELA (Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority) and presented by the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid Personnel. To see more about this event, go to <http://www.collegegoalmissouri.com/>

## **AS NOTED IN AN EARLIER SPECIAL TRANSMISSION, APPLICATIONS FOR 2008 FFA SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE**

The 2008 National FFA scholarship program went live on the web **December 1, 2007**. For the first time, students can submit applications for collegiate scholarships online. Please pass this information along to students and FFA members.

Two examples of awards offered are:

A. Cargill will award 350 scholarships at \$1,000 each to high school seniors who live in a Cargill community. Students must plan to pursue a two- or four-year degree in any major at an accredited post-secondary institution in the fall of 2008. Students are selected based on academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular activities. Applicants must visit their local Cargill facility to obtain a signature from a location manager on their application. Each scholarship recipient's high school will receive a \$200 library grant.

B. Ford dealers across the country have partnered with Ford Trucks and Ford Motor Company to provide 700 scholarships at \$1,000 each to FFA members. Scholarship applicants must be planning to attend any accredited two- or four-year institution in any area of study. One lucky chapter will be eligible to receive a two-year lease on a Ford F-Series truck!

Students need to go to <http://scholarships.ffa.org> to register and fill out an online application. Once they submit the application, their FFA advisor will receive an email notifying them a student has submitted an application for review. The email will have a link taking the advisor directly to the student's summary page. Advisors will review it, score the SAE on a scale of 1 to 5, add their statement and sign it electronically using a checkbox. **APPLICATIONS MUST BE APPROVED BY THEIR FFA ADVISOR TO BE ELIGIBLE.**

Once the FFA Advisor has signed off on the application, the student will receive an email directing them to print a signature page. **We must receive a signed signature page mailed through the US Postal Service, postmarked no later than FEBRUARY 15, 2008 to complete the application.**

Although **the deadline is February 15, 2008**, it is suggested that students complete their applications by **February 1st - earlier when possible - to provide ample time for advisor's approval and collection of signatures on the signature page.**

Last year approximately one out of every four students who applied for the program received a scholarship. In 2008, more than 10,000 students are expected to apply for approximately 1,800 available scholarships ranging in value from \$1,000 to full tuition at Johnson and Wales University.

## **{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}**

### **THANKS FROM OPERATION: MILITARY KIDS**

Thank you for the interest you have shown in supporting children with military family members. This is a difficult time for these young people and we want to do whatever we can to support them.

There are still Operation: Military Kids resource packets available. These packets are for you, the counselor, and contain articles and resource lists that we hope you will find useful.

We want to continue supporting your efforts as you work with children from military families. We need to know what would be most useful to you. This is not a promise that we can provide everything you request, but we certainly will do what we can.

To order a counselor O: MK packet or to let us know what resources or information would be useful, contact one of us. Again, thank you for the support you are giving this very deserving group of young people. To see more information about the Missouri Operation: Military Kids program, go to <http://4h.missouri.edu/go/programs/military/>

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## **{SYSTEM SUPPORT}**

### **RESOURCES FROM SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD (SREB)**

**A.** A series of Online Newsletters of Best Practices from the 2007 *High Schools That Work* Staff Development Conference is available now. The latest topic is ***Guiding Students to Meet Challenging Academic and Career Goals: Involving School Mentors, Parents and Community Leaders.***

The latest newsletter contains dozens of effective ways for schools to increase success by creating a personalized learning environment in which every student is known by and assisted by an adult with setting and achieving educational and career goals. Learn how schools are preparing students for college and careers and involving parents in the process. To see the entire series of newsletters, go to

<http://www.sreb.org/programs/hstw/publications/2007Pubs/07SummerConferenceNewsletter.asp>

**B.** An article is available from SREB dealing with the issue of embedded credit. To view and/or download the article, go to [http://www.sreb.org/programs/hstw/publications/2007Pubs/07V31w\\_ct\\_studies\\_objective2.pdf](http://www.sreb.org/programs/hstw/publications/2007Pubs/07V31w_ct_studies_objective2.pdf)

## **CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS OF NOTE:**

**A. PATHWAYS CONFERENCE** FOR those working with students in crisis or at-risk will be held **Mar 2-4, 2008** at Tan Tar A. To see a flyer about the conference, go to

<http://dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/leadership/documents/Pathwsaysflyer.pdf>

**B. MSCA SPRING CONFERENCE** will be held on **March 7, 2008**, at the Capital Plaza, Jefferson City, MO. Dr. Carolyn Stone, ASCA Past- President and ASCA Ethics Chair, will speak on LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES FOR SCHOOL COUNSELORS. To see information about this conference and download a registration form, go to

<http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/msca/2008%20SPRING%20CONFERENCE%20Flyer.doc>

**C. 2008 MISSOURI ACT STATE ORGANIZATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE** will be held on **March 12-13, 2008** at the Holiday Inn Select in Columbia, Mo. For information about the conference and registration, go to

[www.act.org/events](http://www.act.org/events)

**D. THE 32ND ANNUAL MISSOURI MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (MMSA) CONFERENCE** will be held on **March 14-16, 2008** at Tan-Tar-A Resort. For information, go to <http://www.mmsa-mo.org/conference.html>

**E. SAVE THE DATE!!** The Third Annual University of Central Missouri/DESE Counselor Institute will be held at the University of Central Missouri's Central Summit Center in Lee's Summit, Missouri, on **Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21, 2008 from 8:00-4:00**. More information will be sent out as it becomes available.